

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
a strength member comprising a sheet, said sheet manufactured in a forming process, said sheet having at least one fiber access opening leading to at least one formed area disposed generally longitudinally relative to an axis of the cable;
at least one optical fiber component disposed within said at least one formed area so that the at least one optical fiber component can be accessed at the fiber access opening without substantially disturbing the strength member; and
a cable jacket generally surrounding said strength member with at least a portion of the cable jacket being in communication with the at least one fiber access opening.
2. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said sheet comprising a strip, tape or foil.
3. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said strength member having a substantially uniform thickness.
4. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said cable having a non-preferential bend characteristic.
5. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said cable having a preferential bend characteristic.
6. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said at least one formed area being generally V-shaped.
7. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said at least one formed area being generally U-shaped.
8. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said at

09/822,523

C0002

Page 2

least one formed area being generally U-shaped with a generally flat bottom portion.

9. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, a cross-sectional area of the cable being generally non-circular.

10. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said cable jacket including an indicia.

11. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said strength member comprising a metallic material.

12. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said strength member formed from a metallic sheet, said strength member further comprising an interior space having a central electrical conductor surround by a dielectric material at least partially filling said interior space and functioning as an insulator between said central electrical conductor and said strength member.

13. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, further comprising an interfacial layer at least partially disposed between an outer surface of said strength member and said cable jacket.

14. (previously presented) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, said at least one optical fiber component being adjacent to a decoupling zone.

15. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 14, said decoupling zone substantially surrounding the at least one optical fiber component.

16. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 1, further comprising a water-blocking component at least partially disposed in said formed area.

17. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, comprising:

a strength member comprising a sheet, said sheet manufactured in a forming process, said sheet having at least one fiber access opening leading to at least one formed area disposed generally longitudinally relative to the longitudinal axis of the cable;

at least one optical fiber component disposed within said at least one formed area so that the at least one optical fiber component can be accessed at the fiber access opening without substantially disturbing the strength member;

a decoupling zone disposed in said at least one formed area and adjacent to said optical fiber component;

at least one water-blocking component at least partially disposed in said formed area; and

an interfacial layer at least partially disposed between an outer surface of said strength member and a cable jacket generally surrounding said strength member with at least a portion of the cable jacket being in communication with the at least one fiber access opening.

18. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said sheet comprising a strip, tape or foil.

19. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said strength member having a substantially uniform thickness.

20. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said cable having a non-preferential bend characteristic.

21. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said cable having a preferential bend characteristic.

22. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said decoupling zone substantially surrounding the optical fiber component for substantially decoupling said optical fiber component from said strength member.

23. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, a cross-sectional area of the cable being non-circular.

24. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, the cable including an indicia for locating said optical fiber component.

25. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 24, said indicia comprising a protrusion above a generally uniform cross-section of said cable.

26. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said at least one formed area comprising an interstice, said cable jacket at least partially filling said interstice.

27. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said strength member being formed of a metallic sheet, said strength member further comprising an interior space having a central electrical conductor surround by a dielectric material at least partially filling said interior space and functioning as an insulator between said central electrical conductor and said strength member.

28. (cancelled)

29. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said at least one formed area being generally V-shaped.

30. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said at least one formed area being generally U-shaped.

31. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 17, said at least one formed area being generally U-shaped with a generally flat bottom portion.

32. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
a strength member comprising a sheet, said sheet manufactured in a forming process having at least one fiber access opening leading to a formed area disposed generally longitudinally relative to an axis of the cable;
at least one optical fiber component disposed within said at least one formed area so that the at least one optical fiber component can be accessed at the fiber access opening without substantially disturbing the strength member;
a cable jacket generally surrounding said strength member with at least a portion of the cable jacket being in communication with the at least one fiber access opening; and
the cable having a strain of about a 1.0% or less when applying about a 1,000 lb. tensile force.

33. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said strength member having a substantially uniform thickness.

34. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said cable having a non-preferential bend characteristic.

35. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said cable having a preferential bend characteristic.

36. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said cable having a strain of about 0.3% or less when applying about a 500 lb. tensile force.

37. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said cable having a strain of about 0.3% or less when applying about a 300 lb. tensile force.

38. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said at least one optical fiber component being adjacent to a decoupling zone.

39. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 38, said decoupling zone substantially surrounding said at least one optical fiber component.

40. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, further comprising a water-blocking component being partially disposed in said formed area.

41. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said cable jacket includes an indicia.

42. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, said strength member formed from a metallic sheet, said strength member further comprising an interior space having a central electrical conductor surround by a dielectric material at least partially filling said interior space and functioning as an insulator between said central electrical conductor and said strength member.

43. (cancelled)

09/822,523

C0002

Page 7

44. (original) A fiber optic cable according to Claim 32, further comprising an interfacial layer at least partially disposed between an outer surface of said strength member and said cable jacket.